

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the previous amendments and the following remarks.

With respect to the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, the recitation at issue is removed from Claims 1 and 15, and those claims are further amended to recite that the glass sheets have a temperature difference of no more than approximately 3 to 5° C after press-bending. Support for this clarifying, non-narrowing amendment can be found in lines 16-19 of page 2 of the specification. Withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112 is therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 15 are also both rejected as being unpatentable based on the disclosures in European Application Publication No. 398759, hereinafter Yoshizawa, and U.S. Patent No. 4,311,503, hereinafter Kellar.

Claim 1 recites a process for the treatment of the glass sheets of an asymmetric pair of glass sheets for the production of a laminated window, whereby the glass sheets are preheated, then undergo a press-bending process, wherein the preheating and/or the press-bending process are controlled in such a way that the two glass sheets have a temperature difference of no more than approximately 3 to 5° C after completion of the press-bending process, after which the glass sheets are cooled.

Claim 15 recites a process for the treatment of the glass sheets of an asymmetric pair of glass sheets for the production of a laminated window, including preheating the asymmetric glass sheets, press-bending the glass sheets, detecting the temperature of the glass sheets after press-bending the glass sheets, and controlling the preheating and/or the press-bending so that the glass sheets have a

temperature difference of no more than approximately 3 to 5° C after press-bending the glass sheets, after which the glass sheets are cooled.

Yoshizawa discloses a method of heating glass sheets for laminated glass. The Official Action correctly notes that Yoshizawa does not disclose controlling the method in such a way that two glass sheets are at substantially the same temperature, i.e., have a temperature difference of no more than approximately 3 to 5° C, after completion of a press-bending process, after which the glass sheets are cooled.

The Official Action goes on to take the position that Kellar cures the above-noted deficiencies in Yoshizawa. Specifically, the Official Action states that "KELLAR teaches that it is important to maintain the same temperature in pairs of glass even through the end of bending because if one sheet is not heated enough then it will be difficult to bend while a sheet that is heated too high will lose the shape after bending is complete until the temperature decreases (col. 1 lines 40-54). Therefore it would have been obvious from the reasoning of KELLAR to check that the temperature of the glass sheets leaving the press-bending is the same temperature to ensure that both sheets maintain the same curvature." Applicants respectfully disagree.

The noted portion of Kellar discusses in lines 40-46 that for an enclosed heating furnace, when glass sheets are conveyed through the furnace at a uniform cycle speed (i.e. the sheets are conveyed through the furnace at the same speed), thin sheets will heat up quicker than thick sheets. As a result, thin sheets will develop a high temperature at the furnace exit compared to a thick sheet (which will have a lower temperature at the furnace exit). It is clear that following the furnace

exit, the heated glass sheet is then bent because Kellar states at col. 1, line 47 “[c]onsequently, glass sheets of different thickness will be shaped to different configurations, because those sheets that are relatively cold will be more difficult to bend into shape, whereas the relatively thin sheets will retain a higher temperature after they are shaped and tend to lose the imparted shape until their temperature is reduced to one below which the sheet continues to deform.” See also Kellar's abstract, which reads “... so that each sheet arrives at the furnace exit at substantially the same elevated temperature required for subsequent treatment that is substantially equal from sheet to sheet”

Applicants respectfully submit that what an ordinarily skilled artisan would have gleaned from these passages is that it is a consequence of the different sheet temperature prior to bending that gives rise to problems during/following bending. As such, if anything, an ordinarily skilled artisan would have understood that Kellar teaches achieving the appropriate temperature prior to bending to shape the sheets to the same configuration. For example, an ordinarily skilled artisan would understand from Kellar that the thin glass sheet would need to be cooler before being bent, to avoid the problem of deformation after bending, and a thick glass sheet would need to be hotter prior to bending to make it easier to bend into shape.

As a consequence, Applicants respectfully submit that Kellar provides no suggestion to instead control the preheating and/or press bending processes such that the two glass sheets are at substantially the same temperature after completion of the press-bending process. It is clear from Kellar that the temperature of the glass sheet prior to bending is the cause the shaping problems, but Kellar makes no suggestion to keep the glass sheets at the same temperature after completion of the

press-bending process. Indeed, Kellar is completely silent as to the temperature of the glass sheets following press bending.

In light of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that Kellar fails to cure the above-noted deficiencies in Yoshizawa. Withdrawal of the rejections of Claims 1 and 15 based on the combined disclosures in Yoshizawa and Kellar is therefore respectfully requested.

The dependent claims are allowable at least by virtue of their dependence from allowable independent claims. Thus, a detailed discussion of the additional distinguishing features recited in the dependent claims is not set forth at this time.

Should any questions arise in connection with this application or should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference with the undersigned would be helpful in resolving any remaining issues pertaining to this application, the undersigned respectfully requests that he be contacted at the number indicated below.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16, 1.17 and 1.20(d) and 1.21 that may be required by this paper, and to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 02-4800.

Respectfully submitted,

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